

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

November 1, 2012  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-112

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Englund, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Eileen Rasnack, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Morrison Winters, Mobility Coordinator, Hopelink

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Eileen Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, and Terri Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2012

There was a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The motion was voted on unanimously to approve the minutes.

EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD SHUTTLE (PRESENTATION)

Ms. Rasnack introduced Jon Morrison Winters, Mobility Coordinator for Hopelink.

Mr. Morrison Winters stated that the Bellevue Network on Aging is one of the strongest partners in the work of the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative. He graduated in June from University of Washington in urban planning and has been staffing the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative for two and a half months. He has been meeting with partners to learn what improving mobility and mobility management is all about and how important mobility is to so many people. The mission statement for Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) is “To identify and initiate **coordinated, creative** and **sustainable** ways to assist transportation-disadvantaged individuals, including older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income individuals on the Eastside attain a better quality of life by increasing their transportation options”. The idea is to improve mobility on the Eastside by bringing everyone to the table and working on it together. Mobility is a human services issue. The best definition he stated he has found for mobility is “having transportation services going where and when one wants to travel, being informed about the services, knowing how to use them, and being able to use them”. This reveals the potential gaps

with mobility. It is particularly important in Bellevue to fill the transportation gaps since many services that people need are provided in Seattle. One-third of the total population doesn't drive. You can view the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative website at [www.EastsideEasyRider.org](http://www.EastsideEasyRider.org) to see what services are available and what projects EERC is working on.

Mr. Morrison Winters stated that Hopelink put in for a Federal Transportation Grant. The grant would focus on Eastside Shuttle that would start in Bellevue and expand to Redmond in the future. The grant would be for 2 years and would have to be extended after those 2 years. Hopelink requested ½ million dollars in the grant and matching funds would be provided from King County Metro. It would be considered part of Metro's Hyde Shuttle with the Eastside Shuttle name. There would be different phone numbers for each separate service. It would be a great idea to try to coordinate the two phone numbers but at the start they each will have different phone numbers. The grant would start off with all of Bellevue in July 2013 with three buses. It would expand in September to one additional bus in Bellevue and one in Redmond. Further expansion would occur after that. You would have to call and schedule a ride. The program would be available for 8 hours (8:00am-4:00pm) to seniors (55 and over and disabled). When you call you would tell them where you would like to go within Bellevue. There has been interest in a circulator bus route but it doesn't look like this will happen at this time. If there is a pattern in the routes the Eastside Shuttle takes, it may be possible to consider a circulator in the future.

Ms. Seltzer asked if there is a financial qualification to take the Shuttle. Mr. Morrison Winters stated that income has no bearing. Ms. Zielasko asked if there is an application process. Mr. Morrison Winters stated that there is no application and that you just have to tell the phone scheduler and your driver that you are a senior. So, it is a self-qualification program with currently no charge. The only charge is on a donation basis. The Shuttle operates on a demand response and takes clients where they need to go.

Ms. Robinson asked how this Eastside Shuttle differs from ACCESS. Mr. Morrison Winters stated that ACCESS is more restrictive. They have an application process and the turn-around time for a pickup is very long. It was asked how long the turn-around time would be for the Eastside Shuttle. Mr. Morrison said that he really didn't know but his guess would be possibly about ½ hour wait.

Ms. Thompson asked about the grant funding. Mr. Morrison Winters said that they are expecting to learn their ranking sometime this month. There were 32 grants submitted total.

It was asked what the size of the Eastside Shuttle vehicles would be? Mr. Morrison Winters thought they would be about the same size as the ACCESS vans with about a 14-20 person capacity and a wheelchair lift. Ms. Seltzer asked whether it would cover the whole city of Bellevue and whether they would be able to secure wheelchairs in the vehicle. Mr. Morrison Winters said they would have wheelchair lifts and they would be able to secure wheelchairs but that the vehicles might have some other restrictions.

Mr. Katz explained plans to remove the u-turn lane by Whole Foods and described that it would be detrimental to the access to the light rail transit station. Currently, it is not planned to be removed. This is just one example on how important it is to be part of the planning transportation decisions. Ms. Kimball advised Mr. Katz that he can receive all Transportation Updates and information if he were to go to the City of Bellevue website and add yourself to the list to have alerts sent to your email box. Ms. Robinson said that the BNOA would like to hear when they get the grant so that we can help publicize that this service is available.

Ms. Kimball asked if they had thought ahead to what they would do if the self-qualifying element became a problem. It was stated that other shuttle providers in other areas have structures in place and the Eastside Shuttle can learn from them as to what is working to mitigate this problem.

Ms. Thompson asked where you go to qualify for ACCESS. Ms. VonWald stated that the applications are available online or at the North Bellevue Community Center. You have to fill out the form, get a doctor to fill out their part and mail it in. Ms. Zielasko stated that if you need to meet with them in person, ACCESS will pick you up and bring you to their office.

Ms. Zielasko asked how much time should be allowed before a scheduled pick-up. Mr. Morrison Winters said that he wasn't quite sure. Mr. Englund stated that he is a bit uneasy about the age qualification. It was discussed among the group and they came to the conclusion that people would not call and schedule unless it was their only way of getting around. Disabilities are not always visible, so it would be hard to see if this is their qualification. Qualification is something that would be discussed when they call in to schedule their ride.

## BREAK

Ms. Robinson noted some late corrections to the minutes approved at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Katz is not the Outreach Chair as noted. On page 3, it should be stated as "motorized vehicles" not "motor scooters". On page 4 under Community Partnerships it states that they celebrated the opening of the Downtown Park. This should be corrected to read "dedicated". These changes will be made to the approved minutes.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Outreach (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Kimball had an informational table set up at YMCA on October 25th. Due to the building remodel their placement wasn't as convenient to hand out information but they still thought it was worthwhile and successful and would do it again.

Ms. Robinson handed out a proposed letter in regard to motorized carts at the Botanical Garden. The group gave her input on the letter and made some changes. There was a motion to accept the letter as edited and the motion was seconded. It was agreed that the letter would be sent to the Botanical Garden with the Park Board, Councilmember Wallace, Patrick Foran, the Park Board, and BNOA cc'd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Thompson said that they searching for more videos to show regarding seniors on BTv. Also, if you know of any group that would like a BNOA presentation, let her know.

Ms. VonWald said thank you to the volunteers that manned the tables at Home is Where the Heart is on October 20<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked Ms. Rasnack for her presentation to the Human Services Commission and to the Transportation Commission. She also told everyone to take a look at the recent issue of It's Your City and the "Activities help keep seniors healthy, involved" article.

#### B. Transportation/Housing (reported by Ms. Grote)

We got the updates for the Housing website to ARCH to make the changes. Officer Jeff Lilliard came and talked to the group about jay walking, walking and driving safely. They thought it was very educational and there was a lot of new information presented. The next meeting of the committee is on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### C. Advocacy (reported by Ms. Thompson)

A number of members attended Senior Lobby Conference on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Some important topics presented were health care, "Complete Streets", and transportation. Ms. Thompson said that AARP presented their legislative agenda for 2013 and it is very broad. The Advocacy Committee will develop the BNOA draft legislative agenda at the next Advocacy meeting on Monday.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. Seltzer made a motion to accept the Nominating Committees decision to reappointment current BNOA members Lynne Robinson, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, and Hannah Kimball (as regular members) and Bill Merrimen (as an liaison member) to an additional two year term expiring in December 2014 . The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Seltzer made a motion to approve the appointment of three new members: Susan Poston, Peg Jones, and Thomas Corsini to serve a two year term expiring in December 2014. She stated that there were 12 applications received, 7 were interviewed, and 3 are recommended for membership. Information about each new member: Susan Poston is a volunteer instructor at Overlake Hospital; Peg Jones is a senior who lives at Silver Glen; and Thomas Corsini is a resident of Bellevue and a community advocate. The motion to approve the appointment of these three new members was seconded and approved unanimously.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

#### A. Parks & Community Services Board – (Ms. Robinson reporting)

Ms. Robinson said at the last Park Board meeting a citizen Sherwin Lee talked about how the city should be reaching out to different cultures. Ms. Robinson said she told him how the BNOA

is doing just this and actively trying to engage other cultures. She said there will be a new park in Bridle Trails with a path and play area (24<sup>th</sup> and 132<sup>nd</sup>). There will also be changes in Hidden Valley Park in that the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club will build a gym building. The city will also be resurfacing the ball fields and adding more parking at that park.

B. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Already discussed earlier in the meeting.

C. Eastside Human Services Forum

No report.

D. Eastside Time Bank (Jeanne Grote reporting)

The next special Thanksgiving potluck is on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Redmond City Hall.

E. Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (Ms. Seltzer reporting)

Ms. Seltzer stated that on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Bellevue City Hall will be the Transportation Forum sponsored by Aging & Disability Services. You can stay for the whole meeting but the transportation portion of the meeting will be noon -1:15.

## STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald stated that there were 100 people at the Halloween program at the North Bellevue Community Center on October 31st.

### Upcoming meetings:

December – end of the year celebration with new members. At the beginning of the meeting there will be an update from Planning & Community Development regarding the Update of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. VonWald said this is a good opportunity for us to have input on the City's Comprehensive Plan. The second half of the meeting is the celebration and new members are invited. There will be a white elephant gift exchange (\$5 limit). Ms. Zielasko offered to bring coffee and everyone else can bring food items if they would like to.

Ms. VonWald proposed having the Retreat on January 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-12:00. It was decided to have it on this day.

Ms. VonWald stated that she sent out the Neighborhood News which had information in it regarding Downtown Livability. Also, Planning and Community Development is planning their Neighborhood Forums for 2013. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Grote volunteered to be part of that planning effort.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

November 7 – Section 8 Ordinance at Kirkland City Council meeting

February 21 – Senior Lobby Day, Olympia

## NEW BUSINESS

Ms. VonWald said there is a need to establish an AdHoc Committee for one meeting regarding BNOA Bylaws. Items such as clarifying the definition of attendance, committee assignments and number and terms of liaison members. Ms. Rasnack and Ms. Thompson indicated that they would serve on this committee.

Ms. Kimball stated that she really sees a need to appear on a regular basis at the City Council meetings. This will be addressed in the Outreach Committee.

## ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.